

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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PO Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

www.safetymeetingoutlines.com

Job Name _____

Date _____

GRAVITY AND FALLING OBJECTS

Eleven percent of workplace fatalities in 2005 were classified as "struck by object" accidents; these include deaths caused by falling objects. When you consider how much activity occurs above your head at a construction site, it makes sense that falling objects can present serious hazards.

Construction work involves moving materials from floor to floor. Some of these items include bricks, pipe, lumber, metal, and concrete. Many of these materials are also transported and lifted into place by cranes, forklifts, and hoists. While these activities allow us to accomplish our work, they also create opportunities for the law of gravity to demonstrate that what goes up, must come down.

Gravity is the force that pulls you and all other objects towards the earth's center. If an object is dropped from overhead, it picks up speed as it races toward the ground. If you happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, you may be seriously injured or killed by that falling object. A screwdriver or a cinder block falling from above can cause fatalities. To reduce the number of injuries and deaths caused by falling objects, workers should avoid overhead hazards whenever possible, and prevent objects from falling in the first place.

During lifting operations, establish exclusion zones to prevent workers from working or standing underneath moving loads. Limit access to hazardous areas using warning signs and barricades.

If you're lifting loads using a crane or hoist, a qualified rigger should ensure that the load is properly secured. If the load is not secured, it can shift and fall onto workers below. Take time to inspect equipment regularly and ensure that all components are in good working order. Look for defects and signs of wear.

When you're working overhead, you should prevent objects from falling onto others below. Secure your tools and materials so they won't fall. Use toeboards to prevent objects from falling over the edge, and use debris nets to catch falling objects before they reach the ground. Whether you're working on an upper story or on the ground, store and place materials with care: a stack of 2x10s leaning against the side of a house, or a bundle of shingles on a roof could cause severe injuries if they slide and fall.

To protect yourself against the hazards of falling objects, always wear your hard hat. It can reduce the impact and absorb the shock of objects that can't help but obey the law of gravity. Wear your hard hat—it could save your life!

SAFETY REMINDER

**Don't forget about struck-by hazards on the ground.
Stay alert and listen for warnings and alarms when working
near construction vehicles and equipment!**

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

S.A.F.E. Cards® planned for this week _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____

Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.